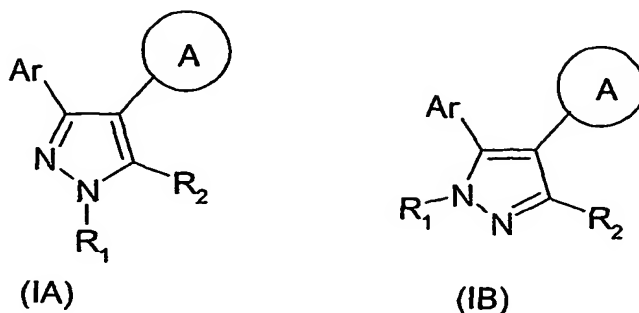


Claims:

1. A compound of formula (IA) or (IB) or a salt, N-oxide, hydrate or solvate thereof:



wherein

Ar is an aryl, aryl(C₁-C₆ alkyl), heteroaryl, or heteroaryl(C₁-C₆ alkyl) group, any of which being optionally substituted in the aryl or heteroaryl part thereof,

R₁ is hydrogen or optionally substituted C₁-C₆ alkyl;

R₂ is hydrogen, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkenyl, or C₁-C₆ alkynyl; or a carboxyl, carboxamide or carboxyl ester group; and;

ring A is a non aromatic carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring wherein (i) a ring carbon is optionally substituted, and/or (ii) a ring nitrogen is optionally substituted by a group of formula $-(\text{Alk}^1)_p-(\text{Cyc})_n-(\text{Alk}^3)_m-(\text{Z})_r-(\text{Alk}^2)_s-\text{Q}$ where

Alk¹, Alk² and Alk³ are optionally substituted C₁-C₃ alkyl,

Cyc is an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic radical;

m, n, p, r and s are independently 0 or 1,

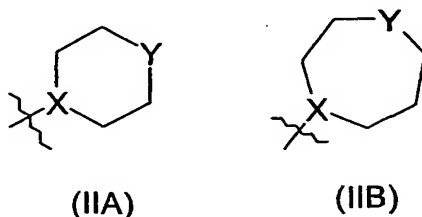
Z is -O-, -S-, -(C=O)-, -SO₂-, -C(=O)O-, -OC(=O)-, -NR^A-, -C(=O)NR^A-, -NR^AC(=O)-, -SO₂NR^A-, or -NR^ASO₂- wherein R^A is hydrogen or C₁-C₆ alkyl, and

Q is hydrogen or an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic radical.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein Ar is an optionally substituted aryl, or heteroaryl radical; and ring A is a non aromatic carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring wherein (i) a ring carbon is optionally substituted, and/or (ii) a ring nitrogen is optionally substituted by a group of formula $-(\text{Alk}^1)_p-(\text{Z})_r-(\text{Alk}^2)_s-\text{Q}$ where
Alk¹, Alk² are optionally substituted C₁-C₃ alkyl,
p, r and s are independently 0 or 1,
Z is -O-, -S-, -(C=O)-, -SO₂-, -C(=O)O-, -OC(=O)-, -NR^A-, -C(=O)NR^A-,
-NR^AC(=O)-, -SO₂NR^A-, or -NR^ASO₂- wherein R^A is hydrogen or C₁-C₆ alkyl, and
Q is hydrogen or an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic radical.
3. A compound as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein Ar is a 2-hydroxyphenyl group which is optionally further substituted.
4. A compound as claimed in claim 3 wherein Ar is a 2,4-dihydroxyphenyl group which is optionally further substituted in the 5-position.
5. A compound as claimed in claim 4 wherein Ar is a 2,4-dihydroxyphenyl group which is further substituted in the 5-position by chloro or bromo.
6. A compound as claimed in claim 4 wherein Ar is a 2,4-dihydroxyphenyl group further substituted in the 5-position by optionally substituted phenyl or C₁-C₆ alkyl.
7. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein Ar is a 2,4-dihydroxyphenyl group which is further substituted in the 5-position by phenylethyl group which is optionally substituted in the phenyl ring thereof.
8. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n- or iso-propyl, hydroxyethyl, or benzyl.

9. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6 wherein R_1 and R_2 are each hydrogen.

10. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein ring A is a ring of formula (IIA) or (IIB):



wherein X represents CH or N, and Y represents CH, O, S or NH, wherein (i) a ring carbon is optionally substituted, and/or (ii) a ring nitrogen is optionally substituted by a group of formula $-(Alk^1)_p-(Cyc)_n-(Alk^3)_m-(Z)_r-(Alk^2)_s-Q$ where

Alk^1 , Alk^2 and Alk^3 are optionally substituted C_1 - C_3 alkyl,

Cyc is an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic radical;

m, n, p, r and s are independently 0 or 1,

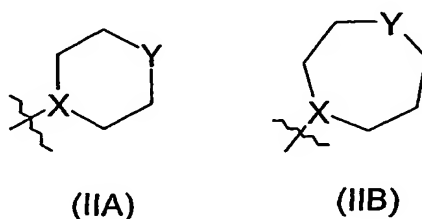
Z is $-O-$, $-S-$, $-(C=O)-$, $-SO_2-$, $-C(=O)O-$, $-C(=O)NR^A-$, $-SO_2NR^A-$,

$-NR^AC(=O)-$, $-NR^ASO_2-$ or $-NR^A-$ wherein R^A is hydrogen or C_1 - C_6

alkyl, and

Q is hydrogen or an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic radical.

11. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein ring A is a ring of formula (IIA) or (IIB):



wherein X represents CH or N, and Y represents CH, O, S or NH, wherein (i) a ring carbon is optionally substituted, and/or (ii) a ring nitrogen is optionally substituted by a group of formula $-(\text{Alk}^1)_p-(\text{Z})_r-(\text{Alk}^2)_s-\text{Q}$ where

Alk^1 , Alk^2 are optionally substituted $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_3$ alkyl,

p , r and s are independently 0 or 1,

Z is $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$, $-(\text{C}=\text{O})-$, $-\text{SO}_2-$, $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{O}-$, $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{NR}^{\text{A}}-$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^{\text{A}}-$, $-\text{NR}^{\text{A}}\text{C}(=\text{O})-$, $-\text{NR}^{\text{A}}\text{SO}_2-$ or $-\text{NR}^{\text{A}}-$ wherein R^{A} is hydrogen or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkyl, and

Q is hydrogen or an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic radical.

12. A compound as claimed in claim 10 or claim 11 wherein the optionally substituted ring A is of formula (IIA) wherein X is N and Y is NH or CH.

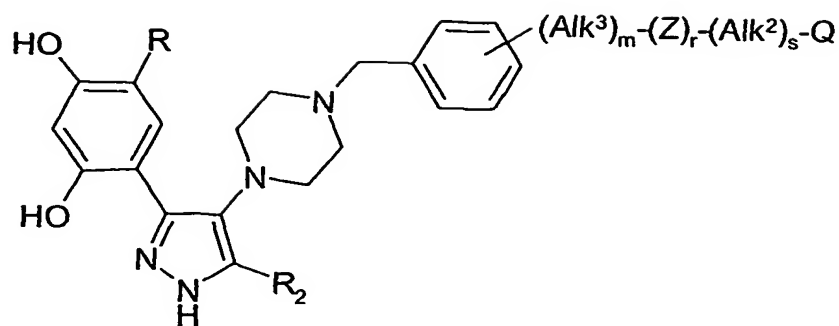
13. A compound as claimed in claim 11 wherein the optionally substituted ring A is of formula (IIA), X is N, and Y is $-\text{NR}^{\text{A}}-$ wherein R^{A} is a radical of formula $-(\text{Alk}^1)-\text{Q}$, wherein Alk^1 is a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_3$ alkylene radical and Q is optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl, oxadiazolyl, imidazolyl or morpholinyl.

14. A compound as claimed in claim 13 wherein R^{A} is an optionally substituted benzyl group.

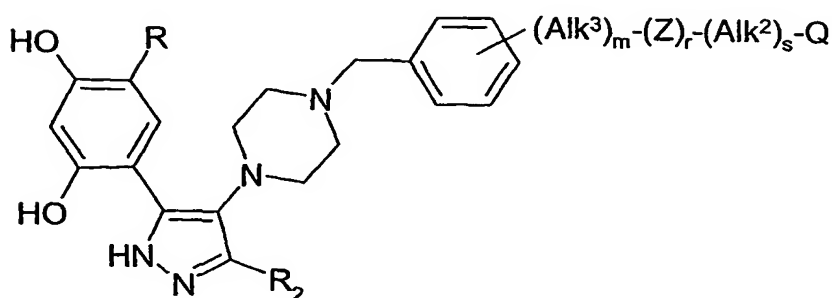
15. A compound as claimed in claim 11 wherein the optionally substituted ring A is of formula (IIA), X is N, and Y is $-\text{NR}^{\text{A}}-$ wherein R^{A} is a radical of formula $-(\text{Alk}^1)_p-(\text{Cyc})_n-(\text{Alk}^3)_m-(\text{Z})_r-(\text{Alk}^2)_s-\text{Q}$.

16. A compound as claimed in claim 15 wherein p is 1 and m are each 1, and Cyc is a phenylene radical.

17. A compound of formula (IC) or (ID) or a salt, N-oxide, hydrate or solvate thereof::



(IC)



(ID)

wherein R is hydrogen, an optional substituent, or a phenylethyl group which is optionally substituted in the phenyl ring, and R_2 , m, r, s, Alk^3 , Z and Alk^2 are as defined in claim 1.

18. A compound as claimed in claim 17 wherein R_2 is hydrogen.
19. A compound as claimed in claim 17 or claim 18 wherein R is chloro, bromo, or a phenylethyl group which is optionally substituted in the phenyl ring.
20. A compound as claimed in any of claims 17 to 19 wherein s is 0, r is 1, and Z is $-C(=O)NH-$
21. A compound as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 which is specifically named or disclosed herein or which is the subject of an Example herein.

22. A method of treatment of diseases or conditions responsive to inhibition of HSP90 activity in mammals, in particular in humans, which method comprises administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims.

23. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 21, for use in human or veterinary medicine.

24. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 21, for use in the treatment of diseases or conditions responsive to inhibition of HSP90 activity.

25. The use of a compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 21 in the preparation of an agent for the management of diseases or conditions responsive to inhibition of HSP90 activity.

26. A method as claimed in claim 22, a compound for use as claimed in claim 23 or claim 24, or the use as claimed in claim 25 wherein the disease or condition is cancer.

27. A method as claimed in claim 22, a compound for use as claimed in claim 23 or claim 24, or the use as claimed in claim 25 wherein the disease or condition is a viral disease, transplant rejection, inflammatory disease, asthma, multiple sclerosis, Type I diabetes, lupus, psoriasis, inflammatory bowel disease, cystic fibrosis, angiogenesis-related disease, diabetic retinopathy, haemangioma, or endometriosis.